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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, XF
SUBJECT: ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF ECOSOC: ASSISTANCE TO
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

REF: (ALL 1976) (A) USUN 2205; (B) GENEVA 5710; (C) GENEVA 5992;
(D) STATE 16884; (E) GENEVA 6152

1. CONFIRMING POOLE/COHN TELECONS JANUARY 10-11, DURING INFORMAL CLOSED MEETING AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 10 TO DISCUSS DRAFT PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1978 (DOCUMENT E/1978/1), IRAQI REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSED THAT ITEM ON ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BE COMBINED WITH AND SUBSUMED UNDER ITEM ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECLARATION ON GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY UN SPECIALIZED AND OTHER AGENCIES. (DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE FROM PAGE 52 OF FOREGOING DOCUMENT THAT SECRETARIAT PROPOSED THAT THESE BE SEPARATE ITEMS 26 AND 28 TO BE TAKEN UP AT SUMMER ECOSOC.) IRAQI PROPOSAL WAS SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING UAE, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, SYRIA, AND SUDAN.

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2. BACKGROUND OF THIS QUESTION IS GIVEN IN REFTELS, PARTICULARLY REFTEL B. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT U.S. VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN BOTH THE 61ST AND 63RD ECOSOCS BECAUSE OF PROVISIONS ON COOPERATION WITH THE PLO AS "THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

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3. DURING YESTERDAY'S DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (AMBASSADOR WELLS) QUESTIONED THE APPROPRIATENESS OF INCLUDING ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE UNDER THE DECOLONIZATION ITEM, REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT THEGA RESOLUTION DEFINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES CONTAINS A SPECIFIC LISTING OF TERRITORIES (WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE PALESTINE). UAE REPRESENTATIVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PALESTINE WAS NOT ON THE LIST BUT STATED THAT IT WAS, NEVERTHELESS, CLEARLY A QUESTION OF COLONIALISM AND SELF-DETERMINATION. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THEN REVIEWED BRIEFLY THE HISTORY OF THIS ITEM, RECALLING THAT AT THE 61ST ECOSOC IN 1976 THE RESOLUTION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY EGYPT UNDER THE ITEM ON "OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT"; BUT THAT IN 1977 IT HAD BEEN SUBSUMED UNDER THE DECOLONIZATION ITEM IN THE DOCUMENTATION PRESENTED BUT HAD ESCAPED THE NOTICE OF OUR OWN AND OTHER DELEGATIONS AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND SPRING SESSIONS AND HAD NOT COME TO OUR ATTENTION UNTIL THE SUMMER (63RD) SESSION. SHE STATED THAT A DECISION TO PLACE THIS QUESTION UNDER THE DECOLONIZATION ITEM WOULD BE A POLITICAL ONE WHICH THE ECOSOC SHOULD NOT BE MAKING AND THAT THE U.S., THEREFORE, FELT STRONGLY THAT THESE SHOULD BE SEPARATED.

4. THE ISRAELI OBSERVER WAS THE ONLY OTHER SPOKESMAN ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, THE EC-9 REPRESENTATIVES TOLD US AFTERWARDS THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO MAKE SOME STATEMENT FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THE RECORD IN THE FORMAL SESSION THAT WILL APPROVE THE PROGRAM OF WORK, PROBABLY JANUARY 13.

5. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE ARAB REQUEST WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE MAJORITY AND THAT WE WOULD LOSE ANY VOTING TEST ON THIS QUESTION, IN ADDITION TO WHICH IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION TO APPROVE ECOSOC'S PROGRAM OF WORK BY CONSENSUS. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT WE ALLOW THE PROGRAM OF WORK WITH THE ANTICIPATED COMBINATION OF ITEMS 26 AND 28 TO BE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS BUT THAT WE THEN MAKE A STATEMENT OF RESERVATION ALONG THE LINES OF THE U.S. INTERVENTIONS MENTIONED ABOVE, ADDING THAT, IRRESPECTIVE OF ITEMIZATION, THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY.

ELONARD

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